

REMARKS**I. Claim Status:**

Claims 1-29 were previously pending. Claims 24-29 stand rejected and have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-23 are allowed.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103:

Claims 24-29 stand rejected as being anticipated and/or rendered obvious by U.S. Pat. No. 6,228,160 to Hanich et al. Claims 24-29 have been canceled without prejudice thereby rendering the rejections thereof moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants again acknowledge with appreciation that claims 1-23 are deemed allowable now that the rejection of claim 4 under § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

IV. Conclusion:

For all the foregoing reasons, the claims are considered to define patentably over the prior art. Reconsideration is requested and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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